[President.]

removed. In Bombay the prices are now about 8 to 10 times the local price, and very influential organisations and leaders of the textile industry in Bombay have come here and waited in deputation on me and have been trying their utmost to remove tapioca from Travancore. Pressure has been brought to bear upon this Government both by those great industrial agencies and through certain Governments for the purpose of changing the policy of this Government. This Government have definitely stated and adhered to that policy that not even an ounce of tapioca will go out of the State until the food situation is rendered definitely easier.

As regards supplementary questions, I think I ought to make the rule clear for the benefit of the new members. The rule is that an honourable member who has put in a question might ask a supplementary question for the purpose of clearing up or elucidating the facts arising out of the question in the printed list. But the moment the supplementary question or questions have been put and the honourable member has resumed his seat, the honourable member cannot put any other series of questions.

*Food Control Committee, Vaikom.*

36. *MR. K. R. NARAYANAN (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state the date on which the Food Control Committee of the Vaikom taluk held its last meeting and whether any decision has been arrived at in the said meeting or in any of the previous meetings for changing the method of distribution adopted till then *re* the supply of kerosene oil and sugar?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Additional Secretary to Government and Director of Food Supplies*): The last meeting of the Vaikom Taluk Food Advisory Committee was held on 9-10-1119. The Assistant Rationing and Purchase Officer, one of the Committee members who was deputed to submit a revised scheme for the distribution of sugar and kerosene oil, reported that the system of ration cards may be introduced throughout the taluk, as in areas within Municipal limits. No decision has been arrived at in the matter.

*Night Schools.*

37. *SRIMATI T. NARAYANI AMMA (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the reasons for a fall in the strength of night schools from 506 in 1117 to 440 in 1118, have been enquired into by the Education Department;

(*b*) what steps have been taken to improve the working of these schools in view of the fact that they contribute largely towards the promotion of adult education in the State; and

(*c*) whether the question of opening night schools for boys and grown-up men as well as for girls and grown-up women under departmental management has been considered by the department?

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